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LEARNING PROCESS

SUWATHIN MITPAT : THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A PARTICIPATORY LEARNING
PROCESS ON PERCEPTION OF FATHERS' ROLES AMONG MALE JUVENILE DELINQUENTS IN
THE TRAINING SCHOOL OF THE OBSERVATION AND PROTECTION CENTER OF SURATTHANI
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This research was designed as a quasi - experimental research to study the effectiveness of a participatory learning process on perception of father's roles among male juvenile delinquents in the Training School of the Observation and Protection Center of Suratthani Province. Subjects for the experimental group in this study were 30 male juvenile delinquents (15 -18 years of age) in the Training School of the Observation and Protection Center of Suratthani Province. The subjects for the control group were 34 male juvenile delinquents (15 -18 years of age) in the Training School of the Observation and Protection Center of Songkla Province. Participants in the experimental group completed 3 programs : the importance of family, the importance of fathers and fathers' commitment. Each program consisted of a participatory learning process i.e, experience, discussion, conceptualization and application. Data collection was performed during March 2 - April 9, 1999 by using self - report questionnaires. The questionnaires were given to both groups, a pretest one week before implementing the program and two posttests, one and four weeks after completing the program. Frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, Chi - square test, independent samples t - test, ANOVA with repeated measurement and Tukey's method for multiple comparison test were used for data analysis.

The result revealed that before implementing the program both groups had no statistical difference in general demographic characteristics, mean scores of extraneous variables and mean scores of perception of fathers' roles. In two posttests (first and fourth week), the experimental group showed statistically significantly higher mean scores of perception than in the pretest (p - value < 0.01), but perception of fathers' roles in the control group did not change significantly. Furthermore, the experimental group showed more improvement on perception of fathers' roles mean scores than the control group with statistically significant differences at the first and fourth week of posttest (p - value < 0.05 and p -value < 0.001 , respectively).

The result of this study suggested that schools, clinics and the Training School of the Observation and Protection Center should pay more attention to promote perception of fathers' roles in male adolescents before the youths start their own families.